

### 3. Physiological Psychology.

*The Congress of Experimental Psychology at Giessen [Erster Kongress für experimentelle Psychologie in Deutschland]. (Zeit. f. Psych. u. Phys. d. Sinnesorgane, 1904, Heft 5.) Dürr, E.*

At this Congress, which was presided over by Professor J. E. Müller, of Göttingen, fifty-one papers and demonstrations were brought forward, covering a very wide field of normal and abnormal psychology. Among the more interesting and important were those by Dr. Henri on the methods of individual psychology, Müller on colour-blindness and the theory of complementary colours, Dr. Guttmann on colour-weakness, which he finds associated with stronger than the usual simultaneous contrasts and by speedy exhaustion. In dealing with geometric optic illusions Ebbinghaus came to the conclusion that various causes must be invoked for their explanation. A paper by Tschermak, on the perception of depth, and the discussion which followed, showed a general tendency to harmonise nativistic and empirical theories. Exner dealt with certain extirpations of the cortex in dogs in relation to problems of sensation. Aerutz discussed the analysis of various kinds of tactile sensation. Müller described the extraordinary memory of Dr. Rückle of Cassel, who is, for instance, able to learn a series of 204 figures in eighteen or nineteen minutes, or only a quarter of the time required by Diamanti, and reproduce them in the most various orders; his memory is said to be of optic character, but with acoustic-motor elements. Weygandt read a paper on sleep, showing by experiments on himself that short periods of sleep do not suffice to remove the exhaustion of mental work. Claparède presented a new theory of sleep which he regards, not as the result of a kind of intoxication, but as an instinct, having for its object the prevention of intoxication. Martius discussed the influences of psychic processes on pulse and respiration, and showed that the contradictory results so far reached are due to defective methods. Groos dealt with the beginnings of art, and argued that it could not be derived exclusively from sexual sources. All these and many other papers are summarised by Dürr.

An important outcome of the Congress was the establishment of a society for experimental psychology, with Prof. Müller as President and Prof. F. Schumann of Berlin as Secretary. HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*The Relation between Vaso-motor Waves and Reaction Times (Psychol. Rev., May, 1904). Wright, W. R.*

Does the reaction time of a subject vary in length in accordance with the rise and fall of his vaso-motor or Traube-Hering wave? In seeking to answer this question, Wright placed the subject in a room separate from the recording apparatus, so that all distractions were reduced to a minimum. A Hallion and Comte plethysmograph was attached to the subject's left hand, and with his right he operated a telegraphic key. On the table in front of him (but screened from his view) was a telegraphic sounder, furnishing the auditory stimulus to which he reacted. Air-tight rubber tubing and insulated wires connected the apparatus with